United Nations S/2015/618

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 11 August 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 30 July 2015 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and a report on the activities of Operation Sangaris in the Central African Republic, for transmittal to the Security Council in accordance with resolution 2217 (2015) (see annex).

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-15074 (E) 110915

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 11 August 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith, pursuant to paragraph 50 of Security Council resolution 2217 (2015), a report on the actions undertaken between 15 March and 15 July 2015 by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France would be grateful if the report would be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Support provided by Operation Sangaris to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Reporting period: 15 March to 15 July 2015

Basis of support for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

By its resolution 2217 (2015), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) by one year and authorized the French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to use all necessary means to provide operational support to elements of MINUSCA.

At the national level, the operational plan dated 16 January 2015 of the General Staff of the French forces called for the Sangaris force to enable MINUSCA to take the lead, within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment, by supporting the strengthening of the Mission and gradually transferring to it full responsibility for its areas of deployment, while retaining a reserve operational capacity for its benefit.

Context of support actions during the reporting period

From 15 March to 15 July 2015, joint actions by the Sangaris force and MINUSCA and Sangaris actions in support of MINUSCA were carried out collaboratively, with increasing levels of coordination and engagement. As the Sangaris force decreased in size, MINUSCA continued to grow in terms of the following:

- Troops: increase from 8,400 in March to 10,648 in July
- Area of action: deployment in Sector East
- Operational capacity: increased ability of units to prepare and carry out operations autonomously

MINUSCA reached its full operational strength on 28 April 2015.

Changes in the size of the Sangaris force

The size of the Sangaris force, which had been reduced to 1,900 troops in November 2014, was further reduced in March 2015, to 1,674 troops and two combined-arms tactical groups, and again in June 2015, to 900 troops and one combined-arms tactical group.

Changes in the area covered by the Sangaris force

The Sangaris force adjusted its area of action to take that drawdown into account, while ensuring operational continuity. It gradually withdrew from Dékoa, Bria, Ndélé and Kaga Bandoro. The eastern limit of its area of action is now Bambari. However, it continued its dynamic and deep operations in the central corridor, in conjunction with MINUSCA. Several route reconnaissance and area-

control operations were carried out in support of MINUSCA (Operations Persée and Dragon 1, 2 and 3) as part of long sequences of action lasting up to a month.

Generally speaking, MINUSCA is involved in all of the force's operations.

Changes in the area covered by the Mission

By the end of March 2015, MINUSCA had carried out the following activities:

– The initiation of phase III of its general concept of operations, involving stabilization and the facilitation of the electoral process

– The continuation of its deployment into the eastern part of the country (Ndélé, then Birao and Yalinga) and towards the south-east, along the northern bank of the Oubangui River (Bangassou, Rafaï Zemio and Obo). It is establishing company operating bases in locations in which it has garrisons

After taking over the Sangaris missions in the west of the country, MINUSCA moved into the central corridor and actively conducted operations in that area, in close coordination with the Sangaris force. It planned and managed its deployment in the east of the country entirely independently.

Principles of joint operations between the Mission and the Sangaris force

- The operational actions of France are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions:

  – With regard to prevention, the force, in conjunction with MINUSCA, has adopted a deterrent posture based on local-level joint patrols

  – When reacting to acts of violence, the Sangaris force and MINUSCA adopt a firm posture and intervene as swiftly as possible in order to bring the violence to an end. The force has not had to intervene in such situations since the end of March 2015

- In the context of confidence-building measures, the Sangaris force has been supporting MINUSCA by implementing and overseeing measures for the disarmament and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment.

Details of the support provided by the Sangaris force to the Mission

- In accordance with the technical agreement of 3 October 2014, the Sangaris force provides operational and logistical support to MINUSCA. A detailed list of those actions is provided in the tables below.

- In terms of organization, French officers, including the Chief of General Staff of MINUSCA, have been integrated on an ongoing basis into the general staff of MINUSCA. While those officers have no obligations in relation to Sangaris, they facilitate mutual understanding of the intentions of the two international forces.

- A Sangaris liaison detachment comprising 21 officers, non-commissioned officers and troops has been incorporated into major MINUSCA structures. They have been assigned as follows:

  – Three officers to MINUSCA force headquarters

- Two officers to the MINUSCA Joint Task Force police command
- One officer to the Office of the Director of Mission Support
- A team of five troops to each of the provincial-level sector headquarters, in Bouar, Bria and Kaga Bandoro. The three teams, which were assigned at the end of March 2015, proved highly efficient not only in providing high-quality liaison services on a daily basis, but also, and especially, in joint operations in which they have accompanied MINUSCA units

- The French and MINUSCA force commanders interact regularly in a unified manner with the transitional authorities and the main stakeholders in order to coordinate their joint actions. The generals commanding the two forces meet each week.

- As regards coordination and mutual support, the General Staff of the Sangaris and MINUSCA forces meet on a weekly basis to plan the military operations of the two forces and to define joint operations.

- During the reporting period, the Sangaris force and MINUSCA carried out joint patrols in the areas in which French forces were deployed. Approximately 50 joint operations were carried out through patrols or at stationary posts to secure or control areas or sensitive sites in Bangui, Bambari, Kaga Bandoro, Sibut and Damara.

- The following four major joint operations were also carried out:
  - Dragon 1, 26 April-1 May: reconnaissance support along the road from Sibut to Kaga Bandoro and Mbrès
  - Dragon 2, 12-20 May: reconnaissance support along the road between Kaga Bandoro and Mbrès
  - Persée, 13-29 May: area-control support along main supply road 2 between Bangui and Damara
  - Dragon 3, 11 June-4 July: reconnaissance support along the road from Kaga Bandoro to Batangafo and Kabo and the road between Kaga Bandoro and Mbrès

- The Sangaris force provides logistical support in the form of level 1 and level 2 maintenance operations on French vehicles that have been lent to African MINUSCA contingents. On four occasions, the force refuelled MINUSCA aircraft, at Ndélé, Bambari and Bria.

- In terms of medical support, the Sangaris force conducted one surgical operation and provided paramedical assistance in 113 cases for MINUSCA during the past four months.

- Operations carried out jointly by Sangaris and MINUSCA have thus contributed significantly to the overall improvement of the security situation in the cities controlled by the two forces: Bangui, Sibut and Bambari. However, the most significant cases are those in which the Sangaris force has withdrawn following the transfer of authority in Dékoa, Bria, Ndélé and Kaga Bandoro.

- The continuous joint operations by the two forces have also facilitated a return to economic activity in the areas in which they are deployed, not only in Bangui and the central corridor, but also in Bambari, whose central market, which was completely deserted until the spring, has reopened.
- On balance, the operations of the Sangaris force have undeniably contributed to the increasing strength of MINUSCA, which has now taken up its role as the lead security force throughout the country.

Ad hoc joint operations of Operation Sangaris and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, 15 March-15 July 2015

Date	*Type of operation*	*Mission*	*MINUSCA-Sangaris resources*
TURCO combined arms battle group			
16-19 March	Mission support	Securing of the Bambari market	MINUSCA elements + 1 Sangaris section
20-26 March	Mission support	Securing of the Bambari market	MINUSCA elements + 1 Sangaris section
27 March-2 April	Mission support	Securing of the Bambari market	MINUSCA elements + 1 Sangaris section
3-9 April	Mission support	Securing of the Bambari market	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
10-16 April	Mission support	Mission support	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
17-23 April	Mission support	Mission support	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
24 April-1 May	Mission support	Mission support	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
1-7 May	Mission support	Mission support	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
8-15 May	Mission support	Mission support	MINUSCA elements + Sangaris patrols
14-21 May	Operation Dragon 2/ Kaga Bandoro/ Mbres, Area control mission	Mission support	1 MINUSCA section (Pakistani battalion) + 1 tactical headquarters + 3 Sangaris sections
17 May	Operation Vosges 17	Mission support	2 MINUSCA sections from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 2 Sangaris sections
5 June	Operation Vosges 21	Mission support	2 MINUSCA sections from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 2 Sangaris sections
VERCORS combined-arms battle group			
26 February	Area control operations	Reconnaissance patrol in Kaga Bandoro	3 Mountain Commando Group P4 all-terrain vehicles + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Pakistani battalion)
27 February	Securing operation	Protecting the site of the meeting with COMANFOR at the C-Sector Headquarters at Kaga Bandoro	2 light armoured vehicles (forward assets dedicated to regiment commanding officer) + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Pakistani battalion)
28 February	Area control operations	Escort of peacekeeper convoy to the eastern Kaga Bandoro barrier	3 Mountain Commando Group P4 all-terrain vehicles + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Pakistani battalion)
5 March	Securing operation	Protection of meeting places during public consultations held at Kaga Bandoro	2 light armoured vehicles (forward assets dedicated to regiment commanding officer) + VERCORS quick reaction force (1 section) + 3 M113 armoured personnel carriers + 2 Pakistani battalion sections

Date	Type of operation	Mission	MINUSCA footprint/resources
9 March	Securing operation	Reconnaissance of the Kaga Bandoro administrative zone	3 Mountain Commando Group P4 all-terrain vehicles + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Pakistani battalion)
23 March	Securing operation	Protection during the Force Commander's visit to Kaga Bandoro: fixed and mobile positions	2 light armoured vehicles (forward assets dedicated to regiment commanding officer) + 3 Mountain Commando Group P4 all-terrain vehicles + 3 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Pakistani battalion)
18 May	Area control operations	Joint patrol in Damara	1 armoured infantry combat vehicle section + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Burundian battalion)
19 May	Area control operations	Joint patrol in Damara	2 armoured infantry combat vehicle sections + 2 MINUSCA pick-up trucks (Burundian battalion)
20 May	Area control operations	Control of villages of Bossele, Ombella Boro and Ubi, along main supply route 2	Jaune combined arms subbattle group/3 pick-up trucks (Burundian battalion)
27 March-3 April	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
3-10 April	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
10-17 April	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
17-24 April	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
24 April-1 May	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
1-8 May	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section
8-15 May	Area control operations	Defending Court of Appeal	1 section from the Democratic Republic of the Congo + 1 Cameroonian section + 1 Sangaris section

Date	*Type of operation*	*Mission*	*MINUSCA Sangaris resources*
11 June–7 July	Area control operations	Support for MINUSCA to control the Kaga Bandoro/Ouandago/Kabo zone and area control in the Doukouma region (south-east of Kaga Bandoro, towards Mbres)	1 company each from Cambodia, Gabon and Pakistan, Centurion subgroup with 2 infantry sections, 1 anti-tank platoon, commando parachute group, canine battalion, engineer group and utility helicopters, for a total of 160 troops and 60 armoured and wheeled vehicles

Joint patrols by Operation Sangaris and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, 15 March-15 July 2015

Date	*Type of patrol*	*Sangaris unit*	*Location*
EUROCO combined-arms battle group			
3 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
4 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
6 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
7 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
8 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
9 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
10 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
11 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
12 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
14 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
15 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
15 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
16 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section	Bambari
17 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
18 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
19 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
20 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
25 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Sibut
27 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
28 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Sibut
29 May	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
1 June	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Sibut
3 June	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari
3 June	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Sibut
4 June	Foot patrol	1 MINUSCA group + 1 Sangaris section + 1 gendarme	Bambari

Health support provided by the Sangaris force to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, 15 March-15 July 2015

Date	*Type of support*	*Number*	*Location*
15 March-15 July	Emergency consultation	0	Mpoko
	Surgical consultation	3	
	Hospitalization	7	
	Paramedical assistance	84	
	Surgery	1	
	X-rays	14	
	Ultrasounds	0	
	Laboratory tests	1	
15-18 May	Egyptian soldiers treated at role 1 facility after vehicular accident	3	Ndélé

Logistical support provided by the Sangaris force to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, 15 March-15 July 2015

Date	*Type of support*	*Location*	*Sangaris resources*
15 March-15 July	Maintenance level 1 and 2 support; refuelling of MINUSCA aircraft	Bangui	Mechanical (vehicles and tanks) and technical workshops by the field maintenance subgroup, forward arming and refuelling point
19 March		Ndele	
21 March	Refuelling of MINUSCA aircraft	Ndélé	Forward arming and refuelling point
3 May	Refuelling of MINUSCA aircraft	Bambari	Forward arming and refuelling point
13 May	Refuelling of MINUSCA aircraft	Bria	Forward arming and refuelling point

Difficulties encountered with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, 15 March-15 July 2015

Date	*Type of problem*	*Location*	*Developments follow-up by MINUSCA Sangaris force*
15 March-15 July	For the entire Sangaris force: nothing to report	Nothing to report	Nothing to report

Abbreviation: MINUSCA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.